

ATTACHMENT C

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A method of providing video-on-demand (VOD) comprising the steps of comprising the steps of:

- repeatedly transmitting a set comprising a plurality of N video programs at staggered time intervals from a VOD server to a network for access by a view box of an user, and
- responsive to a request for access to a selected one of said programs by said user,

selecting that in-progress transmission of the selected program for which a lead-in portion is shortest and storing said program in a buffer associated with the view box as it is transmitted,

selecting, in a memory associated with the view box, a previously stored beginning portion of said selected program having a time length sufficient to compensate for that of said staggered time intervals and outputting said beginning portion to said view box for display, and

continuously splicing the in-progress transmission stored in the buffer to a conclusion of the beginning portion,

~~characterized in that~~wherein all different video programs in a same set are transmitted with time shifts equal to a fraction of the staggered time interval.

2. (Currently Amended) A ~~process~~method according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~wherein all time shifts between two successive ~~transmission~~transmission are a same fraction 1/N of the staggered time interval.

3. (Original) A method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of downloading said beginning portion of a specific said program into all view boxes connected to said server during a last period of low network load prior to availability of said program from the server.

4. (Currently Amended) A video on demand system having:

- at a head end of the network, a server for repeatedly transmitting a set comprising a plurality of N video programs at staggered time intervals (δ) to a network for access by a view box of an user, and
 - at user's ends, a plurality of view ~~box~~units~~box units~~ each having a bidirectional connection with said server, each said ~~end~~view box unit comprising:
 - a buffer for simultaneous writing in of a program transmitted on the network by said server and read out of said program with a time difference between writing in and read out of a same portion,
 - memory means for storing beginning portions of predetermined duration of a plurality of programs adapted to be received and displayed by said view box unit,
 - user operated means for selectively tuning said view box unit for reception of a program repeatedly originating from said server as successive transmissions at time intervals on different channels, and storing that transmission of said program which began most recently as it proceeds,
 - means for reading out the beginning portion of the program which has been selected from the memory means , and
 - switching means for splicing the selected beginning portion with the following portion of the same program for display when said following portion becomes available from the buffer,
- ~~characterized in that~~wherein said server is arranged for transmitting all different video programs in a same set with time shifts equal to a fraction of the staggered time interval.

5. (Original) A system according to claim 4, wherein said buffer is part of said memory means.

6. (New) A method according to claim 2, further comprising the step of downloading said beginning portion of a specific said program into all view boxes connected to said server during a last period of low network load prior to availability of said program from the server.